Laurel Rasplica Rodd was a Junior Year Abroad Program (Japanese) participant at the East-West Center from 1966-1967. During her 40-year career, she taught Japanese language at the University of Colorado Boulder, researched Japanese literature, was Executive Director of CU Boulder’s Center for Asian Studies from 2005 and President of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) from 1996. Dr. Rodd is a recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. Dr. Rodd has contributed greatly toward promoting understanding about Japan and Japanese education in the U.S.